

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Pursuant to
The Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975]**

**PROGRAM INFORMATION
2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

The attached application must be postmarked by May 31, 2015

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

The goal of the Nursing Education Scholarship Program is to increase the number of nurses available for employment in Illinois by offering scholarships to overcome financial barriers to education. The program provides financial assistance to qualified individuals pursuing an associate degree in nursing, an associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, a hospital-based diploma in nursing, a baccalaureate degree in nursing, a graduate degree in nursing or a certificate in practical nursing.

ELIGIBILITY

An applicant must be:

1. a resident of Illinois for at least one year prior to application, and be a citizen or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
2. enrolled in or accepted for admission to a nursing program in Illinois that is approved by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation (a list of approved schools can be found at <http://www.idfpr.com/dpr/who/schools/NurseSchools.pdf>; and
3. in need of financial assistance based on applicant's 2015-2016 Student Aid Report.

APPLICATION

To be considered in the selection process, an applicant must:

1. submit a completed, signed and dated application form prior to the deadline;
2. include a current copy of an official transcript or other current official school form that indicates a cumulative grade point average (GPA);
3. include a copy of a 2014-2015 Student Aid Report (SAR) or Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that indicates an Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC). A current SAR or FAFSA is required, even if you are not eligible for or have not applied for other financial assistance; and
4. if licensed, include a copy of his/her Illinois registered professional nurse license or Illinois practical nurse license.

NOTE: For assistance with your SAR or FAFSA, please visit your school's financial aid office, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov, or call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship awards will be distributed as follows:

1. at least 40 percent for students pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing;
2. at least 30 percent for students pursuing an associate degree or a hospital-based diploma in nursing;
3. at least 20 percent for students pursuing a graduate degree in nursing; and
4. at least 10 percent for students pursuing a certificate in practical nursing.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Recipients will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Renewal recipients will receive preference.
2. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of scholarships to be awarded, priority in awarding scholarships will be given to students who:
 - have the greatest financial need per the Student Aid Report;
 - are full-time or closest to full-time students;
 - have the fewest number of credit hours remaining to complete their nursing degree;
 - already have an associate degree or hospital-based diploma in nursing or a certificate in practical nursing and are pursuing a higher degree; or
 - have the highest cumulative grade point average as documented on an official transcript or other official school form.
3. When all criteria are equal, a lottery may be used to determine scholarships.

NUMBER OF YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

The number of years student are eligible to receive funding is based on the degree or certificate they are pursuing. The maximum years are:

1. one academic year – certificate in practical nursing
2. two academic years – associate degree in nursing
3. three academic years – hospital-based diploma in nursing
4. four academic years – baccalaureate degree in nursing
5. five academic years – graduate degree in nursing
6. three academic years – graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS

Full-time students may receive the following for an academic year:

Public college or university:

Students pursuing a *baccalaureate degree* or a *graduate degree* in nursing:

\$10,488 for tuition and fees (**estimate per academic year**)

\$3,656 for living expense stipend (**estimate per academic year**)

Community college, hospital-based school of nursing or school of practical nursing:

Students pursuing an ***associate degree, a hospital-based diploma*** in nursing or a certificate in practical nursing:

\$2,857 for tuition and fees (**estimate per academic year**)

\$3,656 for living expense stipend (**estimate per academic year**)

Private schools or Technical Colleges:

Students attending private institutions or technical colleges receive the same amount as students attending public institutions.

Part-time students:

Awards for part-time students are determined by applying the ratio of part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment to the average per-term scholarship amount for a student in the same nursing degree category.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

Prior to receiving scholarship funding for any academic year, the recipient must sign a contract with the state of Illinois agreeing to work at a medical facility in Illinois providing direct patient care as a registered professional nurse, advanced practice nurse or licensed practical nurse. For individuals who pursued a graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator, the recipient must teach nursing students at an approved institution in Illinois.

REPAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP OBLIGATION

Repayment of the scholarship obligation to the state of Illinois may be achieved in two ways:

1. by working at a medical facility in Illinois as a registered professional nurse, advanced practice nurse or a licensed practical nurse, providing direct patient care; or as a nurse educator in the case of a graduate degree student; or
2. by monetarily repaying the obligation.

Following graduation and licensing, a recipient is required to be employed on a full-time or a part-time basis.

Full-time employment:

means providing direct patient care or working as a nurse educator for 35 hours or more per week for weekday shifts or at least 24 hours per weekend shift.

Part-time employment

means providing direct patient care or working as a nurse educator for a minimum of 17.5 hours and up to 34 hours per week.

Fulfillment of the nursing employment obligation must be within a time period that does not exceed twice the number of months covered by the scholarship, as illustrated in the following table:

SCHOLARSHIP	NURSING EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION	
	FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT	PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT
ONE ACADEMIC YEAR (semester / trimester basis)		
Per term, full-time student	6 months	12 months
Per term, part-time student	3 months	6 months
ONE ACADEMIC YEAR (quarter basis)		
Per term, full-time student	4 months	8 months
Per term, part-time student	2 months	4 months
SUMMER TERM		
Per term, full-time student	3 months	6 months
Per term, part-time student	1.5 months	3 months
NOTE: Total nursing employment obligation for any one academic year will not exceed 12 months of full-time employment.		

License pending status – Employment while in “license pending” status does not meet the employment obligation of this scholarship.

For recipients holding a current Illinois nurse license prior to graduation, the scholarship obligation is met by employment subsequent to receipt of the degree for which the scholarship was received.

Monetary repayment - A recipient who fails to meet any term of the contract is in default and will be required to monetarily repay the scholarship to the Illinois Department of Public Health as follows:

For each year not met by the nursing employment obligation, recipient will repay the Department the total amount of scholarship funds received plus seven percent interest per year on the unpaid balance. Cash repayment must begin within six months following the date of the default and must be completed within six years.

DEFERMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP OBLIGATION

The nursing employment obligation may be deferred by review of a written statement from the recipient to the Department when failure to fulfill the nursing employment obligation results from:

1. involuntarily leaving the profession due to a decrease in the number of nurses employed in the state;
2. total and permanent disability; or
3. a recipient must notify the Department within 30 days if he/she spends up to four years in military service, before or after graduation, and before completion of the nursing employment obligation. Within 30 days following completion of active duty, the recipient will begin meeting his/her employment obligation.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Upon graduation, a recipient must provide a copy of his/her diploma or certificate to the Illinois Department of Public Health.
2. Recipient must pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and provide a copy of his/her Illinois nurse license to the Illinois Department of Public Health.
3. Recipient must meet the required nursing employment obligation or monetarily repay the funds.
4. Recipient should consult a tax preparer regarding the tax obligations resulting from this award.

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Applications must be postmarked by **May 31, 2015**. Applicants are notified whether the application is complete. Only one notice/request for additional information will be provided. Only complete applications will be considered for a scholarship.

The scholarship pays only for coursework within the nursing curriculum for which the recipient is funded; it does not pay for pre-requisite coursework. The expense for coursework applied to another degree will not be paid nor will it be considered when determining eligibility for a living expense stipend.

Applicants who are in default on other educational loans and/or scholarships received from state or federal funds are not eligible to receive these scholarship funds.

Applicants are not required to disclose their Social Security number on the application form; however, if selected, the Social Security Number will be required.

It is the applicant's responsibility to notify program staff if any information on their application changes.

Application does not guarantee a scholarship.

Questions may be directed to:

**Illinois Department of Public Health
Center for Rural Health
Nursing Education Scholarship Program
535 West Jefferson Street, Ground Floor
Springfield, IL 62761-0001
Telephone: 217-782-1624
TTY (hearing impaired use only) 800-547-0466**